

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of)
)
Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition) MB Docket No. 07-269
in the Market for the Delivery of Video)
Programming)

**COMMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING BOARD OF
FOREST PARK, GREENHILLS AND SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP, OHIO**

These Comments are filed by the Community Programming Board in response to the Further Notice of Inquiry ("Further Notice") released April 21, 2011 in the above-entitled proceeding. In addition to providing fact specific information about our community, the Community Programming Board files these comments in support of the Comments of the Alliance for Community Media. The Community Programming Board also wishes to congratulate the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission") for recognizing that Public, Educational and Governmental ("PEG" or "public access") channels constitute "public interest programming." (Further Notice at ¶ 21 n. 63)

PEG Programming in Our Community

The Community Programming Board is a joint governmental operating board serving the City of Forest Park, Village of Greenhills, Springfield Township, and Colerain Township, Ohio, with a population of 120,379. Our franchised cable providers are Time Warner Cable (entire area) and Cincinnati Bell (less than 10% of the area).

Our community has public, educational and/or governmental ("PEG") channels, originally provided as part of our locally negotiated franchise agreements, but now pursuant to our state's video franchising law following abrogation of the local franchise.

CHANNELS – Greenhills, Forest Park, Springfield Township

We currently have:	In 2007, we had:
2 public access channels	2 public access channels
1 educational channel	1 educational channel
1 government channel	1 government channel
1 Joint PEG Channel	1 Joint PEG Channel

CHANNELS – Colerain Township

We currently have:	In 2007, we had:
1 public access channels	0 public access channels
1 educational channel	0 educational channel
1 government channel	0 government channel
0 Joint PEG Channel	0 Joint PEG Channel

These channels are located on the following tiers of service:

Time Warner – Greenhills, Forest Park, Springfield Township: Analog Basic

Time Warner – Colerain Township – 2 Analog Basic, 1 Digital Tier

Cincinnati Bell – not carrying access channels due primarily to the high cost to the access organization proposed by Bell to transmit the signals to Bell’s headend for distribution.

A digital cable box is required to view the access channel on the digital tier in Colerain Township. This box requires payment of a rental fee each month.

There are no sources I am aware of available in Ohio to track the availability of PEG programming and changes to PEG availability.

Our community media center produces and cablecasts programming not available on local commercial or PBS stations – including council/trustee meetings, school board meetings, school concerts and sports, and a variety of other community events. In addition, we provide the training, facilities, and cablecast for programming by local residents and non-profit organizations. Many of these users cannot afford the equipment to produce the program, nor the fees charged by broadcast media to transmit their program. And although online sources such as “youtube” are available to these users to present abbreviated versions of their programs, we have found through a local survey and anecdotal reports from our users that the majority of viewers watch these programs on the community access channels, not online.

Unfortunately, due to sections of Ohio’s state franchising law that take effect at the end of 2011, we will be hit with a double financial whammy. First, the law eliminates our PEG access fee (despite the fact our local franchise was not scheduled to expire until 2021). Second, we will have significantly higher cost because the law will allow incumbent cable companies to add charges for transmission of our signals to their head end for distribution to subscribers. We have already seen our new cable provider Cincinnati Bell attempt to charge a significant fee for this connection, which was traditionally included under local franchising. The net result of these changes will likely be reduced service due to decreased staff.

Respectfully submitted,
Community Programming Board
By: Chip Bergquist, Executive Director
2086 Waycross Road, Forest Park, Ohio 45240
May 5, 2011